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MONA.

Day and night, and night and day,
I pray, and cannot choose but pray.
With my bended knees and eyes
God, let the glory come to pass
Of Easter-lilies in the grass,
And green leaves on the boughs!

All sick and pale my Mona lies,
Pale and sick, with longing eyes—
A flower that dies for thirst.
And day and night my heart's wild beats
Call for a thousand sweetest sweets
To charm away her pain.

O! waters bound with curdling rime!
Come dancing on before your time,
Through mists of silvery sprays!
And pick out your tenderest trills,
Come ye snow bills, come mellow bills,
And sing your lives away!

O! little golden-bodied bees,
Hum from her heavy heart to ease!
And butterflies, so fair,
Wash your wings of care and brown,
Balance before her up and down,
And be glad all the air!

All buds with unfulfilled hopes
Have birthas of such perfect flowers,
I charge you in love's names,
That the immortal sweet is allied
So nearly to the sanct-ified,
Not heaven itself can blame!

Then shall the lily leave the shade,
And lend her like a waiting maid,
Shaking the tall dark weed.
The rose shall to her window climb,
And tell her that the low-leaved thyme
Is ready in her need.

O! drowsy-lidded violets!
Constellate flower that never sets!
And blush-hush, low and small,
And pinks and pansies plain and pied,
And sovereign marigolds beside—
My Mona needs you all!

O! star flower, pushing from your breast
The dead leaves, shine out with the rest!
And fling in the garden it day,
Ye daffodillies made of light,
To pierce her with a pretty sight,
Toss high your lovely heads!

Low lying in her pallid pain,
A flower that thirsts and dies for rain,
I lave her night and day!
And every heart beat is a cry,
Every breath, I waver a sigh—
O! for the May! the May!

Atlantic Monthly for February.

FAR AWAY.

Be land that is very far off.—Isaiah xxxiii. 17.

Upon the shore
Of Evermore
We see like children at the play;
And gather shells
Of earthly thoughts and wells
The mighty sea from far away.

Upon that beach,
Nor voice nor speech
Doth its gigantic tongue employ;
But through our souls
A whisper'd lisp it rolls
That comes to us from far away.

I, to our ears
In voice of years
Come deeper, deeper, day by day;
We stoop to hear
It draws us near
Its awfulness from far away.

At what it tells
We drop the shells
We were so full of yesterday,
And pick no more
Upon that shore,
But dream of things far far away.

And o'er that tide,
Far out and wide,
The yearnings of our souls do stray:
We long to go
We know not how
Where it may be, but far away.

The mighty deep
Doth slowly creep
Up on the shore where we did play:
The very sand
Where we did stand
A moment since, swept far away.

Our playmates all,
Beyond our call,
Are roving hence, as we, too, may,
Up to that shore
Of Evermore,
Beyond the boundless far away.

We'll trust the wave,
And Him to save,
Beneath whose feet as marble lay
The rolling deep,
For He can keep
Our souls in that dim far away.

—*Frisbee's Magazine.*

HE PULPIT.

non Preached by Henry Ward cher, in Plymouth Church, Brook- n.

here remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of Heb. x.

rely, if any man in this world might opposed to have yearned and longed rest, and to have been lifted up above ossible human or elemental disturb- , that man was the Apostle Paul. If there was a weather beaten mariner as the one. He has, in this and the eding chapter, been arguing on the rical fact of the Israelitish wander- in the wilderness. He has been lifting ugh, step by step, the history of the rs' wandering, but the fact that they eyed an intimation that the promised was fulfilled in a larger and more ious sense in that rest which remain- for the people of God beyond death, in the other life, than we can gain conception of in this life. He argues e Jew from the Jewish precedent, and is the argument might seem provin- as it is national. Had the Apostle d in our day, with all the added light which God's providence has flooded arth since that time, unquestionably range of illustration would have been er, and the appeals he has considerat- have been more abundant; and

there is something wonderfully hing to me in these ar- ents of antiquity; in the his- of the wandering of this great people e wilderness. It takes one back to n. We put ourselves in their midst. think that they were men of like pas- s with ourselves; that they became l of the narrowness of life in the rt, of its insufficient experiences, of rials and troubles and privations; that longed for the promised land, that it was the subject of their dreams as well as of wayside conversations; and we love ittern from theirs our own life, and to k of the human condition at large as me sense a wilderness, and as in some e a journey across it. For, as theirs a journey fraught with temptations stumblings, with discouragements, rmations, with delays and quickening s and expectations; and as finally entered the promised land, and set- down with many thanksgivings, so gh they were probably not so great as r anticipations had been, were never- ss so great as to constitute the favor- nations of the world seeing misjudg- and misadjustments, and mistakes. ll to all after time; so the Apostle made facts of the Jewish history a kind of ment from which to bring before the s of this disciples, and those whom he ten and so anxiously taught, the re- tion of the state and sphere in which are now living, and of that which lies and it.

e disturbed state of human life will ish a reason for yearnings and for ings after rest, I suppose, to every sen- e and morally reflecting mind to the ent of time. It is not necessary that we ld join those who indiscriminately le this world and rail at it. It is not ssary that we should say that it is a world. It is no more other than it was nt to be. We need not say that it is a sh world. It was meant to be selfish. t is, there is a law of individual re- sibility; and although that law is fectly understood and executed, yet a great and fundamental law, which ols men not only, but which it was gerous for men to tamper with, and h it is dangerous to lift off from men's lders.

e cannot, either, look upon this world thus the world has been only a scene urs and blood and sin; for we see this world has been fitted up and con- ed to develop a great race, and that t race is developing, and that there is at decree working itself out, fulfilling f. And although there is by the way h of waste, and sorrow and trouble, shold, looking largely at it, in this id, made on purpose as it has been, in- ments fitted for this great result which adually shaping itself.

ough we have this conclusive generic , it can not but be, when we sink, as ere, into the trough of the sea of expe- ce, when day by day we come to the ils of life, when we measure from time me our infirmities and weaknesses—it not but be that then we shall get tired e world and of this present life. But her times we can lift ourselves up and now all things work together for good ose that love God. There are many s in which men see the good which God gs out of evil.

ork at the feelings that come from ural desires unfulfilled. If we only w the pattern, of the mind which we arrying, and had the art as well as the nce of fringing about the fulfilment of normal desires, how much better we uld enjoy life! but, alas, few of us, w what we are made up of, or what irds us. Few of us know why desires ent in us; why sometimes we hunger are not fed, and why at other times n we hunger we are fed. Few of us w how it is that there come joy and ss, and growing crying sins, out of ch we emerge from the flood and come he shore only to enact the same experi- ce over and over again. And when we in to get the advantage of these mis- s and sins, how mortifying it is to feel

we have out-lived rather than over- e them; that it is but so much our wledge that has gained the victory, as the burning of the fires of passions s has consumed them. And there is and reason for continually wish- that we were content with this part of existence, with this school world to be designed to make us better and ler, and to prepare us for the world ond.

or are these yearnings and otherios less ant and imperative as we rise in our ritual condition. They put us in a ut betwixt two. We are willing to stay the God's pleasure; but aside from that desire to depart and be with Christ, ch is better than life,

and although at the time the mistakes and sins into which we are brought day by day may not seem to us to have been sins, or although their unmeritoriousness or guilt may not have entered the mind, yet, without doubt, there are hours of retrospect; there are premonitions of final judgment in our own experience; there are days when a man's life seems to come to judgment before him; when the conscience sits as Chief Justice; when there is something in him that has the voice, and part, and authority, and well-nigh the terror, of God himself; when one convicts himself, and all the course of his life, not alone of insubriety, but of deep and damning guilt. There are days when one may be said to be overwhelmed by the weight of testimony that stands out against him. And which ever way he turns, measuring himself by any sufficient law—by even the lowest divine law—he is penetrated, saturated, with the conviction of sins and mistakes all through his life, and in every faculty, and in many of them to such a degree as to have formed habits till he doubts whether there is manhood in him, or elements out of which can be wrought the purity of another life.

When one has in succession such deep experience of sin, humble as he is, lowered as his pride is, quickened as his moral sense, horrified as his judgment is, how insufficient are the ordinary experiences of life! And care, labor, toil, ambition, affection, power, wealth, fame—how do they seem but as bubbles on a treacherous sea, that break almost in the moment in forming! And one comes to that state and unfrequently, in which he says, "Oh, that the experiment were ended! Oh, that the body of sin might die, and that I might rise out of this disciplinary state into that rest which remaineth for the people of God."

And then, aside from personal disturbances of passion, aside from these deeper experiences of sin, there are other parts of life which we cannot avoid seeing, if we are sufficiently cultured to observe—as most men are in a Christian community. There is the violation of almost every feeling in us. One must be very hopeful, very serene, very placid, constitutionally, not to be bruised and wounded in his feelings by what he sees all around him. Many a man can step except on tears that some one going before dropped in his path. No man can look as far as eye can reach in any direction without seeing misjudgments, misadjustments, mismeasurements, and mistakes. There are not only imperfections, but the dashings that come from imperfections. There are your crystalline affections that have their beauty and that stand in all their beauty and perfection and reflect the light of heaven? Where are the absolute and evenly mated friendships? Where are the true proportions of a noble ambition well accomplished? Where is the evidence that goodness in this life carries happiness with it, when the good are so continually chastised? Where is the evidence that evil is followed with a well-founded dread? And, on the other hand, evidences that evil is allowed as much sway as at any former period? Is it not apparent on every hand that in this life the wicked do flourish? Does it not seem as though moral character made no difference? or as though, if it made any difference, it deprived men of joy and comfort, while it developed and deceit crowned men with success, and joy and comfort and honor?

When men look out upon life in certain states of mind, they grow moody and skeptical. They doubt whether there is such a thing as a moral constitution. They doubt whether there is a law that governs, and that there is a retribution both present and future. They doubt whether there is a Providence that takes cognizance of these things, and discriminates, and does it with a view to the right. In exceptions and mistakes. They doubt whether that great silence, that great void, without a shadow or image, has within it any substance at all. They doubt, in short, whether, after all, we are not living in this great confused world mere molecules and atoms, working up by some blind natural law to some higher form, of which we are ignorant. And the rebound in some natures is, "Let us drink and be merry, for to-morrow we die." In other natures the rebound is, "Let us be kind to one another." In still other natures the rebound is, "There remaineth, and there is soon coming, a rest that shall issue out of all the fluctuations of this moral state, and out of these confusions of things which are but confusions in our estimation, and are not confusions in the mind of God, who regulates human conduct by laws."

Then there are those—and who shall give the number?—who, as they look, are outstanding and overmatched in life. We see that in the forest there is a continual falling of leaves all summer long. Although autumn only shows them off, they do not a day in all the summer when some leaves do not turn, and are not sloughed off, or wind-driven, and carried to the ground. So it is in the forest of humanity. In the conflicts of society the strong are continually growing stronger, and the weak are shoved to the wall, and the destitute are made more destitute, and they are ground to pieces. It is a sad thing to see it. It is a sad thing to look after the outcasts. It is a sad thing to see how men are run into the world. And, after they are in the world, it is sad to see what responsibilities are laid upon them, and what destinies a wilful, blind, selfish world is to compass. I can read arguments against the doctrine of a divine overruling Providence, and not suffer materially in my faith. That which staggers me out of all life itself. It is the way that men are born into the world. It is the way they are compelled to live here. It is what happens to them here. It is their weakness with which they are obliged to encounter gigantic strength. It is their unpreparedness for the assaults that they must bear. It is the tremendous issues of the world that lie beyond this. And my mind instantly retreats to the thought that there remaineth a rest; that there is a world where all these things are ended, and that there I shall understand what now seems inexplicable, and so will my fellows.

The poor, the sick, the abandoned, all men in their moments of thoughtfulness naturally call out for this rest. Put yourself in the place of those that are met in poverty by the bitter storm that rages without sunlight. Round about is the city. How many there are that cry out for the cold! In this nation how many there are that hunger, and are dying of hunger! Recently, in the Methodist Episcopal Conference church who is teaching in Virginia, begging money enough to buy a barrel of flour, and stating that the colored children would be barefoot in the winter for want of shoes and stockings, and that there were carpenters there who were mainly employed in making coffins in the spring, people were literally starving to death. And in all the sphere of experience on this continent, how many to night are shivering, and how many shall shiver, and die, before to-morrow, and all through the coming season. When I look upon the face of these things, I will not doubt my God, and will not give up my faith in a divine overruling Providence; nevertheless, I am glad that there is a rest, and that if these things are to go on happening, they will happen to others, rather than any more to me. And I say to myself, that I will bear my part of the sympathy with these things; I shall move on, and let others take my place in the march—the long march in which we are brought day by day may not seem to us to have been and gone, and that it was a mirage rather than a reality. Yet, there is a rest that remaineth; there is a treasure that remaineth; there are honors that remain. They will wait for you. They have waited for generations; they have waited for patriarchs and apostles; they have waited for weary multitudes; they have waited for good men of every name; and they will wait for you. A city beyond the flood; a land without storms; a summer without winter; unreaped harvests that never fall to the ground, whether the sickle touch them or not; crowns for sovereigns innumerable; sceptres endless—those things remain. Those very things remain in their highest forms, in forms inconceivably high, for which men spend their life here on this miss them. The patience, the long suffering, with which these things wait for our coming, somehow flowers my imagination and gladdens my heart. And in the midst of every storm I say, "I know a place where there is calm." In the midst of every sin I say, "I know a place where the smile never dies off from the face." And when the sun goes down, I say, "I know a place where there is no night and no darkness, and where no sun is needed." And at this period of the year, when the days are growing shorter and shorter—being diminished at both ends—I am irresistibly reminded of the waste of years and of life itself; and I have always sweet consolation. For there is a voice that steals out of these wasting days, saying: "These are days that are cycles; there are days that are unvisited by storms; there are days that are unclouded by night; there are days that abide forever; and they wait for thee." And so by storms, by disappointments, by tears, by all the lessons of sin and sorrow and reformation through repentance; by the inspection of the imperfections, its rudeness, its conflicts, its unsatisfied condition; by the knowledge of love, and what it prophesies rather than fulfils; by the sweetness of dwelling in us. One must be very hopeful, very serene, very placid, constitutionally, not to be bruised and wounded in his feelings by what he sees all around him. Many a man can step except on tears that some one going before dropped in his path. No man can look as far as eye can reach in any direction without seeing misjudgments, misadjustments, mismeasurements, and mistakes. There are not only imperfections, but the dashings that come from imperfections. There are your crystalline affections that have their beauty and that stand in all their beauty and perfection and reflect the light of heaven? Where are the absolute and evenly mated friendships? Where are the true proportions of a noble ambition well accomplished? Where is the evidence that goodness in this life carries happiness with it, when the good are so continually chastised? Where is the evidence that evil is followed with a well-founded dread? And, on the other hand, evidences that evil is allowed as much sway as at any former period? Is it not apparent on every hand that in this life the wicked do flourish? Does it not seem as though moral character made no difference? or as though, if it made any difference, it deprived men of joy and comfort, while it developed and deceit crowned men with success, and joy and comfort and honor?

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Or, you may apply this term *remaineth* to the conflicts of life, wherein are seeking for the same things, and where their anticipations proceed on the supposition that there is not enough for division; as, for instance, where it is the marshal's truncheon, if one gets it, another cannot have it. There are spheres where wealth is not adequate to the wants of all. Some will be rich, but riches will not remain for all. Now, there is nothing of this in our conception of heavenly things. Neither here, we are striving for wealth; but wealth is for but few, and the great number are coming to a point where their expectations will be disappointed, and they will find that their wealth has vanished and gone, and that it was a mirage rather than a reality. Yet, there is a rest that remaineth; there is a treasure that remaineth; there are honors that remain. They will wait for you. They have waited for generations; they have waited for patriarchs and apostles; they have waited for weary multitudes; they have waited for good men of every name; and they will wait for you. A city beyond the flood; a land without storms; a summer without winter; unreaped harvests that never fall to the ground, whether the sickle touch them or not; crowns for sovereigns innumerable; sceptres endless—those things remain. Those very things remain in their highest forms, in forms inconceivably high, for which men spend their life here on this miss them. The patience, the long suffering, with which these things wait for our coming, somehow flowers my imagination and gladdens my heart. And in the midst of every storm I say, "I know a place where there is calm." In the midst of every sin I say, "I know a place where the smile never dies off from the face." And when the sun goes down, I say, "I know a place where there is no night and no darkness, and where no sun is needed." And at this period of the year, when the days are growing shorter and shorter—being diminished at both ends—I am irresistibly reminded of the waste of years and of life itself; and I have always sweet consolation. For there is a voice that steals out of these wasting days, saying: "These are days that are cycles; there are days that are unvisited by storms; there are days that are unclouded by night; there are days that abide forever; and they wait for thee." And so by storms, by disappointments, by tears, by all the lessons of sin and sorrow and reformation through repentance; by the inspection of the imperfections, its rudeness, its conflicts, its unsatisfied condition; by the knowledge of love, and what it prophesies rather than fulfils; by the sweetness of dwel

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1867.

THE LATE SENATORIAL CANVASS.

It is doubtless the wish of some that the late Senatorial canvass in this State should cease to be made the subject of comment. There doubtless are plenty of reasons why the persons alluded to should entertain this wish, and with it the hope that the subject might be dismissed from the public mind. But they are not likely to be gratified in either respect. The moral sentiment of this Commonwealth is of too sound a character and appreciates the importance of political integrity in representative men too highly, to allow the lapse of a few weeks' time, or the superficial action of a Legislative committee of investigation, to slur over the proceedings which have been deemed exceptionable, or to exempt men unfaithful to their trusts from responsibility to their constituents.

The public understand the nature of difficulties that they labor under and the biases to which they are exposed. Especially with reference to the use of corrupt means for carrying measures or elections through a pubic body, the difficulty of getting a knowledge of the facts is extreme, even where committees are strictly honest in their intentions and efforts. The wrong is not committed in the face of a multitude. Men who sell themselves are rarely fools enough to do it in a way to be easily found out. Old practitioners in the lobby know what gifts to give and how to give them. The code of venality is adapted to the necessary secresy of the case and is fitted to meet all the requirements of the occasion. In the contest between suspected parties and investigating committees, the advantage is always on the side of the former in a question of secret corruption.

The practice having been made in this legal form, acquiescence in the result does not preclude dissatisfaction with the means by which it is believed to have been reached. The question is no longer what kind of a Senator SIMON CAMERON will make, nor is it whether his utterances are or are not what Republicans generally approve. He may be the best Senator the State ever had, his utterances may be as good as or even better than those of any other man, and yet the concern of the public mind in the question of corruption, violated pledges, and neglected instructions, remains unabated. The conviction that such corruption did exist is not to be denied, nor is it to be denied that it was very extensive in the State and was openly spoken of in political circles both in and beyond the State, before and since the election. This has reference to those who were instructed to go against Mr. CAMERON, were pledged to do so, and were open and earnest in their professions in this same direction, but disregarded them and the will of their constituents by going for him.

Something undoubtedly is due to party decisions in caucus, to which true and worthy men may sometimes yield their own preferences and even their individual convictions. But this does not cover cases in which defection was indicated independently of the caucus, and in opposition to the undoubted wish of constituents. The palpable neglect of instructions and promises, and the sudden change to an opposite position, are grounds for the widespread conviction that unjustifiable influences were brought to bear, to produce such an extraordinary change.

Thus far no one has attempted to give a reason why Representatives thus instructed disregarded their pledges, and, without previous notice or intimation, went over to the ranks of those against whom they had hitherto stood firmly. Will any man pretend that all this came from conviction as honest as it was sudden? Men may say they see no proof of the contrary, but do not the conditions and circumstances justify the common belief?

We are ready to concede that some of these men who went for CAMERON were uninfluenced by venal considerations. It is not of such that we are speaking in this article. The circumstances furnish the means of making the distinction. Yet, even these must be aware of the risk they were running of being involved in the general suspicion connected with the case, and expressed in the oft repeated phrase, "CURTIN has the most votes, but CAMERON has the money, and a long time to win to work." The natural result for the candidate for high office must have brought to mind at the capital, as throughout the State, past events, sayings and suspicions, connected with his political life, calculated to make numbers hesitate about crowning him with the choicest honors of the Commonwealth. The high sentiment of morality which should be cherished in public affairs and which does prevail in our Commonwealth has claims which prompt us to say thus much in reference to this transaction.

But it may be asked, Why refer to this matter now, when the matter is all settled by the election? The reasons are many and commanding. Two are enough to justify it; first, the duty we owe to truth and morality, and second, the bearing which the subject has on the future of the Republican party. For years, the taint of old affairs with which Mr. CAMERON was believed to be connected, gave the State an unenviable name in the political world. The belief that there has been a repetition of the practices from which that taint was generated, makes it incumbent on the Press to hold them up to view as deserving of condemnation by every man who desires the good morals and good fame of the Commonwealth. It is not an ordinary matter, nor is it one of a day's importance, to be dismissed as soon as its business has been crowned with success. The practices referred to and believed to have existed in the case, must be checked and abolished entirely, or the fame of our State will fall under perpetual disgrace, and legislative proceedings will become subject to the control of mercenary influences.

The moral considerations in the case are of transcendent importance. To permit a condition of things so extremely obnoxious to suspicion, to pass without notice or continued scrutiny by the public mind, would augur a corresponding degree of corruption in the public mind. This is not the fact. And it concerns every citizen to have the affairs at Harrisburg, connected with the State Government, put into a sound, healthy condition, and kept in it. The interest as well as fame of the State requires it. The interest of sound morals in the State and among the people demands that the corrupting and unsettling practices should be banished from the action of public men at the capital.

The political considerations underlying and supporting these remarks are numerous and important. The Republican party has a fame and character to support. And its high standing for integrity cannot be sacrificed without infinite hazard to its ascendency in the political administration of the State. All corrupt actions and corrupt and venal men endanger the health and strength of the party by alienating the confidence of honest and patriotic men. The Republican party, embosomed in the intelligence and patriotism of the people, imposes no discipline so slavish and brutal as to forbid its members opening their lips in condemnation of what is wrong and damaging to country and party, and only serves the sordid interests of those who are implicated in doing it. And from the official influence of such as abuse their trust, the party will protect itself by withholding their suffrage from them when they again aspire to positions which they have filled so little to the satisfaction of their constituents.

SPECULATION FAILURES.

The failure of MYERS & Co., a large speculation broker house in New York, and the crippling of the North American Bank have been announced. The case is worthy of more than a glance, as a distant object in which we have no interest. It exhibits the hazardous mode in which much of the large speculative business of the country is done, that places it, as we have often said, upon the same ground with gambling, in a moral point of view, and makes its results on general community even more than those of ordinary gambling, in a pecuniary point of view.

By the aid of a bank, this house, doing business it seems to the extent of millions, was enabled to keep up its credit till last week, when it failed and nearly swamped the bank with it. The bank became virtually the indorser of the speculator to a large amount. It certified his checks to be good, though he had not money in bank to meet them. These checks were used to carry the house through a tight place in its speculations, but failed to effect the object. The game did not turn out favorably. The checks consequently had nothing to pay them with but the money of the *bank*. In other words, it was necessary that the indorser should, as in thousands of cases besides, pay the debt.

Other banks, on this startling failure being known, determined no longer to certify checks, that is, not to indorse the paper of their customers, or not to allow them to overdraw without adequate security. This resolution shows that the same practice that crippled the North American so badly, was in use among the rest.

And this is what the general business community have occasion to complain of whenever it is done. Whether banks share in the profits of gambling speculations for which they furnish the funds or the credit, or whether they do not, the effect is to furnish the banking facilities, or in other words, the use of money to their speculative operators, and to keep men in regular, legitimate business out of the benefit and convenience of having it. Besides, the effect on the general community is bad in other ways. It puffs out the credit of a class of bold, greedy, reckless men, who are liable, at any moment to become bankrupt, to the loss of many in the community. It deranges prices of money, stocks and commodities, raising or depressing them, not by the law of demand and supply, but by the success or failure of parties speculating with the money of other people on the credit of some favoring bank. Instances recent and disastrous will readily occur to the minds of our readers in different parts of the country.

We do not attribute these consequences to redundant currency, but to the injurious employment of what we have in sustaining rotten and immoral speculation rather than in promoting legitimate business.

GENERAL RAILROAD LAW.

What we hear from Harrisburg is to the effect that the prospect for a General Railroad Law, at the present session, is not bright. The only reason that we have heard assigned, is that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is unfriendly to any law that will not be so hampered and loaded down as to render it practically worthless. It is understood that the Company would not object to a Railway Bureau—or Board of Control—an arrangement, the beauty of which would be, the Company would control the Board. If this is what is wanted, we trust there will be no hesitation or modesty about taking it. We make no doubt that the Company will find itself a perfect master of the situation, unless the Legislature concludes to serve the people, who at the last election pronounced squarely for an out-and-out General Railroad Law. Of course the defeat of such a law will be nothing less than desertion of the people to serve a huge monied corporation, which alone opposes it. In making this opposition the Company is but taking care of its own great interests as a monopoly that feels itself strong enough to control legislation, and which, according to general belief, does control it whenever it likes. It is but natural that the possessor of power should exert it to insure more perfect control, with the view of obtaining absolute and undisputed supremacy. Indeed the Central Company is doing but a natural thing in resisting legislation that looks to the diversion of a cent's worth of business from it. And it may think it has a right to enter the Legislative Halls with money in hand—and perhaps it has; but we submit that no member of the Legislature has a right to take a cent of it, or permit himself to be influenced in his action by considerations other than the public good.

We are not going to say that members every winter are bought with money, but the wide spread impression—not to say conviction—is that some are. And what gives strength to this belief, is that whatever the Central Company—which is known to be a good paymaster—wishes goes through, and whatever it opposes fails. And in the matter of the General Law—which the Central alone opposes—should it fail, what other interence, we ask, can there be but that this great monied corporation has furnished Senators and Members the solid reasons for voting against it? As a general proposition, whoever serves a monied corporation, when he ought to serve the people whose interests are diverse, must rest under the imputation of being bought. And whenever the action of the members of the Legislature is such as to provoke the application of this rule to them, they should not expect to escape being pointed out and branded as venal and faithless. We will remark, in conclusion, that these observations apply with equal force to the Connellsville Railroad Bill, the issue in that case being *the People vs. the Monopoly.*

TOBACCO AND EDUCATION.

A company of smokers in Berlin, led by some benevolent motive, formed a society and "signed a pledge." They did not propose nor promise to abstain from the use of "the weed." That would be too much to expect of a German smoker, accustomed to season with the fragrant fumes his social chats on politics, literature and metaphysical science. But they pledged themselves to save the tips of their segars, cut off preparatory to smoking, and to sell them to the manufacturers of snuff and chewing tobacco. The money raised in this way was to be devoted, under fixed regulations, to the education of orphan children. At the present time, although the project is of recent origin, the receipts support twenty-two children in the process of education.

This is an illustration of the power of accumulation, of the might of littles. In view of such a fine example of economy and benevolence, one in our utilitarian age and country can hardly refrain from asking two questions of curiosity. First, how many children would these liberal smokers educate, did they, instead of tips, expend the cost of the entire segars on the object? And, second, does the society allow smoking among their beneficiaries, as a part of their education? Whether or not, the idea and the object of the society are worthy of the originality of the German mind, and the tips are destined to a highly laudable end.

OUTSTANDING DEBT OF THE STATE.

The bill introduced into the State Senate, authorizing a loan of twenty-three millions of dollars to take up the loans to that amount now overdue and outstanding, provides that the loan shall be divided into three classes of securities, of which the first class, for the sum actually needing, or so much as may be subscribed, have been selected, and will soon be distributed.

The Hopkins plantation, Houmas Parish, Louisiana, containing 3,600 acres, was sold by the United States Marshal, a week ago, for $25,000. The same place sold before the war, with negroes and stock, for $210,000.

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Mexico's Prospect.

The Washington *Chronicle* on the recent news from Mexico says: "Upon the whole, it seems probable that the perpetual Monroe may soon have an opportunity of proving to the world whether they are capable of self-rule or not. The chances in their favor are far better than ever before. Their most dangerous enemy—the same that has stirred up almost every intestine war for the last thirty years—is shorn of its strength. The temporal power of the Church was destroyed in 1859. Its vast landed property including more than half the City of Mexico, besides numerous and extensive all over the country, was sold for the public benefit, and with the portion of the proceeds the funded debt of Mexico was entirely paid off while another portion, coming due in instalments, was seized by the Government. The Church derived from it an income of twenty five millions a year—a controlling one (for the country) a sufficient war fund. All that is gone. The great element of civil war is removed. Let us hope that a future of peace and of public order is before the people, and that they may have profited by the lessons of the last disastrous twenty years. The chances seem to be that before next spring passes they will be able to hold an election for President. We can't discern how it will be their choice. Benito Juarez—at the age of twelve a peasant boy, herding his father's cattle; thirteen years afterward filling the chair of canonical law in the university of his native State after that Governor, then Chief Justice, then President—the man who has borne the burden and heat of the day through the fiery trials of his country; he, the Lincoln of Mexico, indebted, and something corresponding to it for those who, having been rebels, are rebels no more."

ADVERTISING EXHIBITS—PITTSBURGH AND OTHER CITIES.

It is conceded that nothing gives greater evidence of the growth of a city than the success and increase of its newspapers. We give below some comparisons of the last with previous years, illustrating the point as regards Pittsburgh. Previous to 1865 there is no complete record to refer to, or we think the contrast would be still stronger, as during 1864 "THE COMMERCIAL" had barely begun its career, and the figures for the old papers were, as far as we could trace them, much below those for 1865.

Advertising Receipts.

PITTSBURGH DAILIES.

	1865.	1866.	Increase.
Commercial	$10 369	$65 170	$24 801
Dispatch	41,585	63 565	19 180
Chronicle	46 241	56 185	9,734
Gazette	32 074	53 511	21 437
Post	16 345	25 177	8 832
	$179 924	$263 908	$83 984

We derive no small amount of satisfaction from the above. While we rejoice at the general success of all the papers, and wish our neighbors in the business a further measure of prosperity, we feel particularly gratified by the position of the COMMERCIAL in this showing. Started in 1864, with neither prestige nor business worth having from the concern bought out, we find it in 1865—the second of its life—nearly up to the largest in receipts. One moreyear passes away, and the COMMERCIAL outstrips its competitors, and stands absolutely first. At this rate what may we not look for ahead? We don't like to say "good by" to our friends, but we must move on at all hazards, let who may stay behind.

Now, another view of this matter. While Pittsburgh has grown rapidly in appreciation of the benefits of advertising, (and we believe "THE COMMERCIAL" has contributed mainly to this stimulus,) let us show how far behind other places we yet are:

Advertising Receipts of Other Cities.

PHILADELPHIA DAILIES.

	1865.	1866	Increase.
Public Ledger	$267 265	$310 268	$43 003
Porter's Press	107 148	144 574	44,426
Evening Bulletin	167 740	126 263	58,523
Philadelphia Inquirer	125 312	150 360	25 057
Evening Telegraph	50 663	69 441	18 778
North American	53,246	79 852	26 606
Age	20 164	45 098	18 634
	$890,338	$955,725	$265,387

CHICAGO DAILIES.

	1866.
Tribune	$217 594
Times	73,293
Journal	61 [illegible]
Sun's Z-ning	56 892
Post (five months)	22,100
All other English dailies	67 633
	$498,435

CINCINNATI DAILIES.

	1866.
Commercial	$186 397
Gazette	135 452
Times	71,307
Enquirer	69,452
	$463,168

Philadelphia's *increase* in 1866, is more than the whole business of Pittsburgh for the same year. One paper, the *Ledger*, received nearly $50,000 more than all the Pittsburgh dailies.

Look at Chicago and Cincinnati—places more nearly of our size. Either of them shows nearly double Pittsburgh's business in 1866.

It is believed that the two principal causes for this state of things, in Pittsburgh are *general* appreciation of benefit to be derived from advertising, is of recent date. It has been too much the custom to regard the money paid the newspaper in the light of a donation to "help it along." We are sorry to say the papers themselves have aided this idea by begging for the donation. Often, when times were dull, the gift was withheld.

Now, in Chicago and Cincinnati, the dull season is the very carnival of advertising. The people are sharp enough to perceive that advertising *makes* business brisk, and the man who does it most largely and judiciously, knows the least about "dull times."

The second cause is the difference in prices paid for advertising. It is notorious that here in Pittsburgh we get less prices for service than in any town of half the size in the country. We charge a good deal of this evil also upon the papers themselves. We are too anxious to fill up our columns with trash at trash prices, failing to reflect that thus we undermine the value of the paper for advertisers' use. By properly valuing our own commodity, and respecting our own judgment as to that value, we should soon convince the community that advertising is really worth its price. We could afford to dispense with some columns of advertising, and supply their place with matter that would largely enhance the value of the advertising retained.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

A London letter says: Strange things do get into men's brains sometimes, but the strangest of all were taken from the brain of a man who died suddenly this week. The doctor's official report, signed and countersigned, says that to his astonishment he "found two pieces of ice inside the skull, upon the substance of the brain." The faculty are discussing and theorizing upon the marvelous fact.

The favorite pet of the animal creation in all Parisian households is gold and silver fish. You can fish in every fountain, and in every fish counter, in every window. Last year 90,000 francs worth were sold in Paris, the current price per fish being fifty centimes. It is easy to calculate that 150 000 cyprins have been disposed of in Paris during the year, to add to these 150 000 those sold in previous years, we shall arrive at a sum total of 400,000 fish; that is one to every six Parisians.

The yield and profit of surface mining in Missouri may be judged of from the fact that it has, in the last forty years, produced largely over one hundred millions of pigs lead, and according to the best data that can be obtained, has averaged nearly twenty thousand pound, of ore to the mine per annum. The surface diggings that have given these results embrace but a few square miles, and that science points out as rich in such deposits.

Says the Chicago *Journal:* The Crosby Opera House excitement is now at an end. What little of mystery and doubt there was in regard to the fairness of the drawing and the identity of Mr. Lee has been cleared up, and the matter fully settled. Mr. Crosby still owns the Opera House, but he became re-possessed of it only upon paying the holder of ticket No. 58,600 the $200,000 he asked for it.

A Nashville letter says:—Important action was determined upon in reference to the suffrage question and other matters. And of this result the friends of freedom and the Union may rest assured, namely, that the word white will, in a week or two more, disappear entirely from the Constitution of Tennessee.

Victor Wright, of Middlebury, Vt., sold twelve ewes to a western purchaser for $12,000—$1,000 each; Edwin Stowel, of the same place, sold a ram lamb for $2,000; and E. Hammond sold a ram lamb for $1,000; another gentleman sold a yearling ram for $1,000, which he purchased a year ago for $150.

The fifteenth Sangerfest of the German Sangerbund will be held at Indianapolis during the coming summer. The Central Committee urges all concerned to practice assiduously, and hopes that there will be a full meeting. No songs for the festival have been selected, and will soon be distributed.

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PERSONAL.

—It turns out that the abandonment of the visit of the Empress of the French to the Pope arose from the fact that the Holy Father decidedly snubbed her. In other words the Emperor would not let her go without a direct invitation, and the Pope would not give, but coolly sent her word that a woman's first duty was to obey her husband.

—A London letter says: It has been again rumored that Sir Morton Peto was about to retire from the representation of Bristol in Parliament but it is since peremptorily contradicted. Sir Morton has no intention of retiring. The wish was father to the thought.

—A Washington letter says: George Opdyke and Wm. B. Astor are here to consult with Roscoe Conkling and other Congressmen in reference to starting a new radical newspaper in New York, under the management of Chas. A. Dana.

—The *Court Newsman* gives an account of the manner in which the queen and royal family, at Osborne house, kept Christmas. A Christmas tree, on the German fashion, brilliantly lighted and bearing a rich fruitage of royal gifts, was prepared for the upper servants in one apartment, and for the lower servants in another. The upper servants, quite aristocratic and exclusive, assembled at six o'clock. Her majesty and the royal family soon after entered the room, and her Majesty handed a present to each. She then went to the servants' hall and distributed her royal gifts to the nice little lower class party of 130 in that department. Then both classes had a nice supper, with toasts and speeches, which were, of course, as loyal as possible.

—Says a Washington letter: On Sunday last Secretary Seward met at the State Department President Johnson, Mr. Stanton, Mr. McCulloch, the Secretary of the Navy, Attorney General Stanbery and Caleb Cushing. Several confidential clerks had also been detained by this mysterious conclave, from their regular Sunday devotions, under an apprehension that their abilities would be needed. Subsequently, Col. Sharp, of New York, arrived. He came in the city, it is known at the requisition of the Secretary of State—was sent for, and made a party to the conclave. The same evening large rolls of official papers were sent to Sharp's hotel, together with a passport for general European travel. During the interview referred to, all the correspondence relating to the capture of Surratt was before the meeting, and it is undoubtedly the fact that Col. Sharp, who has always sailed in the Canard line, is deputed to confer with some of the powers to which Surratt fled while a fugitive.

—Elizabeth Cady Stanton, of Woman's Rights Fame, is a daughter of old Judge Cady, who in his day was celebrated among the very ultra judiciary of New York. Her husband, who is Henry B. Stanton, a former State Senator. She is a lady about fifty five years of age, of courtly and dignified appearance, with no taint of conceit or affectation. Her regular, oval features and the short, gray curls on either side of the finely moulded head, the benignant expression of the whole face, the good natured rotundity of her form, suggest the ideal type of grandmother, who ought to be more plenty in the world than they are.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

A San Franc isco dispatch of yesterday says: Among the passengers for New York to-day by the steamer Constitution, are James W. Nye, United States Senator from Nevada, Dr. Lewis A. Sayer and Thomas Maguire.

A Washington dispatch says: Republican authority here is emphatic that the impeachment furore will amount to nothing. Democrats say impeachment is dead. Even Ben. Randall's bill is thought to be losing ground.

It is believed Campbell will be soon able to reside in the Mexican capital as Minister to the Mexican Republic.

The *Times'* Washington correspondent says that he has the best authority for saying that the article in the London *Times* from its Washington correspondent, referred to in the cable dispatches, misrepresents the facts. It was contributed to it in the conversation with the President. He did not refer to Congress at all.

The Impeachment Committee of the Southern Republicans' Association has prepared a partial list of witnesses in the impeachment case, and will soon request their programme of investigating the charges.

The *Herald's* Washington special says: Gen. Salzar, the Minister from Columbia, has arrived from New York, and it is understood, that the misunderstanding which has been spoken of in a letter between Mr. Marshall, Minister to Bogota, and the Columbian Government, will be soon arranged.

A Washington special says: The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs came to no conclusion yesterday in regard to foreign appointments before them, but it is understood both Cowan and Dix will be reported against. Mr. Seward's letter to Mr. Motley is looked upon by Senators here as most insulting and undignified, and it is generally said that Motley in this respect is compelled to resign. The committee will, therefore, report against any one appointed to this position.

Havana advices state that the principal merchants have taken steps towards making Havana a general entrepot for the storage of cotton, by removing the restrictions on foreign vessels. The guard at the Morro castle was doubled on Wednesday's arrival. St. Thomas advices of the 7th, and Porto Rico, of the 11th, say: The cholera had almost disappeared at St. Thomas, but the small pox had not abated. Two telegraph lines were to be established to Porto Rico. Advices to the 10th from Jamaica say that the present winter weather has been the severest they have experienced for twenty years. Many of the Jamaica coasting steamers got fast in the tea near Throga Neck, and persons had to foot it ashore.

STATE ITEMS.

A number of Mifflin county farmers have bought real estate in the Shenandoah Valley, West Virginia, and intend moving there in the Spring.

There is no licensed hotel in Belmersburg, Clarion county, and there is an interesting discussion going on among the people on the subject of license.

The Ladies' Fair, for the benefit of the Soldier's Monument Fund, in Altoona, realized $1 000, which added to the funds on hand, swells the amount to $1,500.

It is stated that the Lochiel Iron Company, of Harrisburg, has contracted to furnish three thousand tons of railroad iron for a Southern railroad.

Rev. John McNair, D. D., a distinguished and very able minister in the Presbyterian Church, died at Lancaster on Sunday last. He had been severely ill for a short time, and his death caused a deep feeling throughout the community. He was a graduate of Jefferson College, Washington county, Pennsylvania, and of Princeton. Princeton, was called to the pastorate of the Lancaster church in 1835, and remained there till call to Clinton, N. J., and served as a chaplain in one of the regiments of the war.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph* says: We understand that the managers and officers of the Pennsylvania Agricultural School, located in Center county, are here in force for the purpose of absorbing all the money received from the sale of the public lands donated to the State by the United States to this State. That institution has already received some $500,000 from the State, and the Legislature will be asked, we should think that another half million would be of little benefit to the managers. Some of the members of the Legislature will examine into the matter closely.

An Indian burying place has been discovered near Easton. A chief evidently was buried under an old apple tree. About his remains were found many articles of large value, among which are a gold medal dated 1824, his pipe in good order, made of clay, one pair of scissors, one knife, a number of carrier pigeons, &c.

The Huntingdon *Globe* announces a festival and grand supper to come off at Alexandria, for the purpose of raising funds to pay pay off the debt on the Union cemetery.

National Finances.

The amount of fractional currency received at the Treasury Department for the week was $46,700. During the same period there was shipped to the Assistant Treasurers at Boston, New York and Philadelphia $100 000 each; to the United States Depository at Baltimore $70,000; at Chicago $60,000; to National banks $150 000.

The amount of National bank currency issued during the week was $404 275, making the whole amount issued up to date $300,807,886. From this is to be deducted the currency returned, including worn out notes, amounting to $2,158,-952, leaving in actual circulation at this date $298 748 964.

The disbursements were as follows:

For the War Department	$1 811 808
Navy Department	2 [illegible]
Interior Department	214 [illegible]
Total	$4 [illegible]

The receipts from internal revenue Saturday were $[illegible], making the total amount for the week $[illegible].

The securities held by the Treasurer of the United States in trust for National banks repre sent bonds as follows:

For circulating notes	$340 514 000
For deposits of public moneys	38 761 450
Total	$379,275,450

The following is the statement of the receipts for customs from January 12th to January 19th, 1867:

New York	$2 360 749 39
Boston	160 859 99
Philadelphia	172 674 61
Baltimore	49 604 61

From New Orleans the amount for the week ending January 12th was $129,964 78, and from San Francisco, for the week ending December 22d, $107,517 97—making the total amount reported $3,064,312 75.

From Pennsylvania Oil Regions.

In is proposed to enlarge the corporate limits of Titusville.

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LATE NEWS ITEMS.

A San Franc isco dispatch of yesterday says: Among the passengers for New York to-day by the steamer Constitution, are James W. Nye, United States Senator from Nevada, Dr. Lewis A. Sayer and Thomas Maguire.

A Washington dispatch says: Republican authority here is emphatic that the impeachment furore will amount to nothing. Democrats say impeachment is dead. Even Ben. Randall's bill is thought to be losing ground.

It is believed Campbell will be soon able to reside in the Mexican capital as Minister to the Mexican Republic.

The *Times'* Washington correspondent says that he has the best authority for saying that the article in the London *Times* from its Washington correspondent, referred to in the cable dispatches, misrepresents the facts. It was contributed to it in the conversation with the President. He did not refer to Congress at all.

The Impeachment Committee of the Southern Republicans' Association has prepared a partial list of witnesses in the impeachment case, and will soon request their programme of investigating the charges.

The *Herald's* Washington special says: Gen. Salzar, the Minister from Columbia, has arrived from New York, and it is understood, that the misunderstanding which has been spoken of in a letter between Mr. Marshall, Minister to Bogota, and the Columbian Government, will be soon arranged.

A Washington special says: The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs came to no conclusion yesterday in regard to foreign appointments before them, but it is understood both Cowan and Dix will be reported against. Mr. Seward's letter to Mr. Motley is looked upon by Senators here as most insulting and undignified, and it is generally said that Motley in this respect is compelled to resign. The committee will, therefore, report against any one appointed to this position.

Havana advices state that the principal merchants have taken steps towards making Havana a general entrepot for the storage of cotton, by removing the restrictions on foreign vessels. The guard at the Morro castle was doubled on Wednesday's arrival. St. Thomas advices of the 7th, and Porto Rico, of the 11th, say: The cholera had almost disappeared at St. Thomas, but the small pox had not abated. Two telegraph lines were to be established to Porto Rico. Advices to the 10th from Jamaica say that the present winter weather has been the severest they have experienced for twenty years. Many of the Jamaica coasting steamers got fast in the tea near Throga Neck, and persons had to foot it ashore.

STATE ITEMS.

A number of Mifflin county farmers have bought real estate in the Shenandoah Valley, West Virginia, and intend moving there in the Spring.

There is no licensed hotel in Belmersburg, Clarion county, and there is an interesting discussion going on among the people on the subject of license.

The Ladies' Fair, for the benefit of the Soldier's Monument Fund, in Altoona, realized $1 000, which added to the funds on hand, swells the amount to $1,500.

It is stated that the Lochiel Iron Company, of Harrisburg, has contracted to furnish three thousand tons of railroad iron for a Southern railroad.

Rev. John McNair, D. D., a distinguished and very able minister in the Presbyterian Church, died at Lancaster on Sunday last. He had been severely ill for a short time, and his death caused a deep feeling throughout the community. He was a graduate of Jefferson College, Washington county, Pennsylvania, and of Princeton. Princeton, was called to the pastorate of the Lancaster church in 1835, and remained there till call to Clinton, N. J., and served as a chaplain in one of the regiments of the war.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph* says: We understand that the managers and officers of the Pennsylvania Agricultural School, located in Center county, are here in force for the purpose of absorbing all the money received from the sale of the public lands donated to the State by the United States to this State. That institution has already received some $500,000 from the State, and the Legislature will be asked, we should think that another half million would be of little benefit to the managers. Some of the members of the Legislature will examine into the matter closely.

An Indian burying place has been discovered near Easton. A chief evidently was buried under an old apple tree. About his remains were found many articles of large value, among which are a gold medal dated 1824, his pipe in good order, made of clay, one pair of scissors, one knife, a number of carrier pigeons, &c.

The Huntingdon *Globe* announces a festival and grand supper to come off at Alexandria, for the purpose of raising funds to pay pay off the debt on the Union cemetery.

National Finances.

The amount of fractional currency received at the Treasury Department for the week was $46,700. During the same period there was shipped to the Assistant Treasurers at Boston, New York and Philadelphia $100 000 each; to the United States Depository at Baltimore $70,000; at Chicago $60,000; to National banks $150 000.

The amount of National bank currency issued during the week was $404 275, making the whole amount issued up to date $300,807,886. From this is to be deducted the currency returned, including worn out notes, amounting to $2,158,-952, leaving in actual circulation at this date $298 748 964.

The disbursements were as follows:

For the War Department	$1 811 808
Navy Department	2 [illegible]
Interior Department	214 [illegible]
Total	$4 [illegible]

The receipts from internal revenue Saturday were $[illegible], making the total amount for the week $[illegible].

The securities held by the Treasurer of the United States in trust for National banks repre sent bonds as follows:

For circulating notes	$340 514 000
For deposits of public moneys	38 761 450
Total	$379,275,450

The following is the statement of the receipts for customs from January 12th to January 19th, 1867:

New York	$2 360 749 39
Boston	160 859 99
Philadelphia	172 674 61
Baltimore	49 604 61

From New Orleans the amount for the week ending January 12th was $129,964 78, and from San Francisco, for the week ending December 22d, $107,517 97—making the total amount reported $3,064,312 75.

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BRITISH MANUFACTURERS GROANING UNDER FREE TRADE.

The Roar of the Gored Ox.

The British manufacturers are groaning terribly under the working of the partial Free Trade System of that country. The following quotations from English papers will be read here with a relish:

"The Secret strikes are seriously damaging the British machinery trade. Mechanical engineers, more especially those residing in London, find that they can get plenty of orders, but only at prices at which they cannot execute them, employing English materials and English labor. Therefore, they endeavor to reduce the cost of the first item by sending to the Continent for their materials. We saw bars of an excellent quality in the yard of a London engineer the other day, which had been obtained from Belgium, with a clear saving to the packet of £21 10s. per ton, as compared with the cost of English bars of the same quality; we need scarcely add that he does not trouble the British maker. The English engineer next endeavors to reduce the cost of labor by substituting machine tools for thews and sinews. There is a limit to this, however. Having imported materials, and done all that machine work can do, our manufacturer finds that he has still to compete with men who have the materials cheaper than he can procure them, because the cost of the export is saved to the producer, and who can work for less thews and sinews system at least as far as we carry it. The foreigner, therefore, finds that with in his favor cheaper labor and cheaper materials. The sequel comes as natural as possible. Instead of importing materials, the English engineer learns to import the finished article, puts his name on it and sells it with all the prestige of that British name in London in which still clings to us. There is nothing disheartening in this. Many of the tools are made, say in France, under English inspection. The engineer, instead of managing his own work at home, travels abroad. The Sheffield cutting up orders which are executed under his own eye in Bremen or Bel

Weekly Commercial.

THE SNOW-STORM.

BY RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, February 2, 1867.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1867.

TERMS:

One copy per year.....$2 00
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SUPREME COURT AND MILITARY COMMISSIONS.

The decision of the Supreme Court, on the Constitutionality of Military Commissions, occasions, as might be expected, considerable anxiety among those officers who, during the rebellion, were members of such Commissions. If, as is alleged, the decision can be applied to make them responsible for their action in such cases, their position is by no means a pleasant one. They will, upon that ground, be liable to prosecution, and to we know not what penalties. And, from the natural impulse of revenge, as well as from the actual exhibitions of resentful passions, made by many of the late rebels, we may be sure that such prosecutions will be eagerly made when there is the slightest chance of success, and that they will be urged as long as they furnish any gratification to resentful passions. There are hundreds of persons who have been arraigned and tried before such military tribunals, who would think themselves but too happy could they have the opportunity of retaliating on the officers who ordered their arrest or participated in their trial.

That anxiety is felt on this subject is averred by an authority that should be well informed on the premises, the *Army and Navy Journal*, which also suggests some of the difficulties that might be encountered by officers involved in prosecutions of the sort referred to, and expresses the opinion that Congress should promptly devise a remedy for the case, that will secure to officers relief and indemnity. One of the difficulties that would in some cases be sure to prevent a fair trial is, that the offense charged would come under the jurisdiction of State courts. In a State court of Virginia or North Carolina, for example, what chance of a fair trial or of a just verdict could a loyal officer have, on a charge of assault and battery, or of false imprisonment? In view of this, the *Journal* says:

"As a practical measure, we would put forth the assertion that Congress should immediately vindicate the national authority wherever it has been properly exercised by our soldiers and sailors; and at the same time that it should give the latter the means of removing the revengeful suits commenced against them, from the State to the United States Courts. This latter result would be accomplished by passing a law that wherever a prosecution for assault and battery, &c., shall be commenced in a State Court, then, upon the entry in case of any United States Commissioner that the act complained of took place during the late rebellion, while the defendant was clothed with military authority, the suit may be removed at the defendant's option to the United States Courts. It is true that, even in this case, the facts would have to be tried before a panel from the vicinage. But it would, doubtless, be possible in some cases to avoid local prejudices by this assertion of the United States jurisdiction, and if any such advantage be possible, it should be secured at once to our loyal officers. The first gain, however, would be in settling the question of jurisdiction. Instead of the action being carried up from court to court in the gradations of State judicature, it would be carried into the United States Courts."

We can scarcely think the cases contemplated in these sentences should ever be the subject of such formal review and award by civil courts. But if they are it is of course proper that they should not be submitted to State Courts at the will of the prosecutor, for that would be to ensure unjust decisions, made under the instigation of rebel prejudices against loyal men. But we think Congress should, if it lie within its prerogative, do more than to secure just trials, to the loyal, honest and brave men who may, by this extraordinary decision, be brought into difficulty. The *Journal* makes the following further suggestion:

"Three things, then, remain for Congress to accomplish by the passage of a law to vindicate the national jurisdiction derived from military authority, now questioned by the courts; to provide for the trial of the cases in the United States Courts; and to arrange pecuniary indemnities in case the decisions of the military be adverse to the officers. This action will ward off any hurtful consequences of those praiseworthy efforts of the military which resulted from the state of war."

That the men who have faithfully performed their duty to the Union, in military commissions or in any other way, should now be subjected to vexatious and revengeful prosecution is malignant beyond belief. Such a monstrous proposition, that it requires a very strong argument or a very weak mind to give it credence as correct. It involves the President of the United States, and all who assisted in *any military trial* connected with the assassination of Mr. LINCOLN. It subjects them to pains and penalties for doing what the country and the world believed to be right. We are persuaded that justice and right do not place men in such a position, and that the people of the United States do not wish, and will not permit their true and loyal men to suffer penalties for being true and loyal.

LOBBYING IN LEGISLATURES.

A new phase of chicanery, in connection with legislative proceedings, has been discovered. That well-known class of hangers-on, called in some States "Borers," and in others, "lobby members," are implicated by this discovery in a very shabby trick. Their regular business is reputed to be to push bills through or to prevent their passage, according as their engagements to their constituents may require. In this work the principal instrument is said to be money, which is made available, according to the antique phrase, "by hook or by crook." This is said to be a very effective method.

Now the discovery has been lately made, in a highly respectable capital of one of the States, that the money entrusted for specific purposes, to some of this class of extra official legislators, has been diverted from its course and expended merely to subserve the gratification of borers themselves in the way of eating, drinking and making merry. And what makes this breach of trust the more annoying, to all aggrieved by the affair is, that they can not, without danger of implication and loss of credit, make any public complaint or seek any redress.

We cannot say that our sympathy is greatly enlisted in their behalf. Not that we consider attention to a pushing bill in the Legislature a wrong. It may be both expedient and right to employ argument and persuasion in favor of a bill, and in advocacy of its passage. But the employment of money, in the hands of professional borers, for swaying the minds of members who may be susceptible of such influences, cannot be too pointedly condemned. As it is plain that venal legislation cannot be wise and safe legislation, so it is equally as plain that mercenary motives should not be appealed to in this important business. The habit of reflecting on the integrity of legislative bodies has, there is reason to fear, done injustice to them, and injury to the power of laws enacted by them. Both results are to be regretted. But it cannot be denied that the boring and lobbying, as often conducted, has been the principal occasion of the reproach to which we have referred. The evil has grown to a magnitude and an effrontery that imperatively demand the application of some means for abating it, in order to redeem the credit of legislative bodies.

RUSH TO THE CITIES.

New York city does not appear, by the State census, where returns have lately been published, to be quite so populous a place as it was supposed to be. A falling off of something like 80,000 in the population seems to have occurred since 1860. No doubt this is in part owing to the same cause that keeps Pittsburgh from showing fairly and truly in the census. The increase of New York has been around New York, like that of our own city.

There has been a somewhat loud outcry, for a couple of years past, against the tendency of people to change their residence from the country to the cities. Nor is it reasonable to suppose this well-meant and seasonable caution has had no effect. A transient experience of life in the city has been sufficient in many cases to set the face and the steps of the stranger towards his old, familiar home in the country. Many, too, have found that to live in the excitement, hustle, and gaiety of a city, is a very different thing from an occasional visiting of it, when the novelty gives everything a delightful relish. And not a few have discovered that although wages may be higher, yet when the additional expense of board and clothing and many little outlays that would not have occurred in the country, are reckoned, the savings do not foot up much, if any, more than they would have done, had the labor been spent in the house, shop or field of the country town or village.

The season of the year is approaching when changes of residence are often made. The question of the comparative comfort of country and city life is, although debated from ancient times, an undecided one. Every one must decide it for himself, in view of his own business and circumstances. Certain it is, however, and it cannot be too much regretted, that a disrelish for the pursuits of *rural life* is apparent in the rising generation. Not less certain is it, that the rush from the sweet fields to the city, will involve many persons in sorrow, poverty and ruin, while it may improve, in many ways, the condition and character of others.

THE CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD BILL

There is in the hands of the Senate Railroad Committee, at Harrisburg, a bill to remove the obstacles in the way of the Connellsville Railroad Company completing their road—virtually giving effect to the late decision of the Supreme Court of the State. The bill has rested so long in the hands of the Committee that suspicions began to be entertained of a purpose of strangling it, or of bringing it into the legislative world in a way that will virtually be the death of it.

We do not intend to review the merits of this bill now, but simply say that we do not believe that the responsible majority can afford to kill it. The opposition to it proceeds from the Central Railroad Company—the issue being, *the Monopoly vs. the People*. The Central Company has a way of its own; it always intends to win. It does not trifle about small things, nor stop long to dispute with an opponent. If common fame, running a good many years back, does not utter a huge falsehood, the Central "goes-for" in the requisite number of votes with ready money, and is said to pay liberally. We say this notorious; is public as much talked about and is as commonly believed as the existence of the corporation itself.

The agents of the Central have appeared in the lobby of the Legislature—armed with the usual appliances—to defeat the Connellsville bill, and thousands of eyes are turned upon the Legislature to see what will be the degree of success that will crown their efforts. There is no money—not a cent—to be paid, nor the promise of it, to those who vote for the bill. But no doubt there is money—and a good deal of it—to be had by voting against it. Men will choose sides according to their ideas of things. Some there are who will vote against the bill from pure motives, but it is hard to see why they should be more than a small minority.

There are many thousand intelligent people waiting for the record. That the very upright and intelligent Chairman of the Senate Committee should have held the bill so long, has already puzzled a good many. Should he send the bill forth with a damaging report, many more will be puzzled, and will expect a good reason.

People are getting their eyes open, and Senators and Members should understand it. When buyers are about, the inference is, somebody is to be bought—and all that remains, is to watch events in order to come to an intelligent conclusion who has sold himself.

ROAD AND WATER CARRIAGE

The condition of New York City, with regard to the moving of its immense population on its streets, is the worst representation of the state of the country, as to its means of transportation between the East and the West. As the Metropolitans seem destined to subterranean and aerial modes of conveyance, for the relief of their streets, so it is apparent that the existing difficulty of road transportation along the great lines of travel are suggesting, in many quarters, the propriety of taking to the long neglected *water*, as a means of transit. The mighty West evidently has this thought under consideration, and is feeling around with decided earnestness for feasible plans of improvement and extension for their already extensive water communications.

In this particular locality, there is abundant ground for lively interest in this subject. We have already a water communication with the West, and as well as excellent road connections. But it cannot be disguised, that our water connection does not enter at all into the various and comprehensive projects of the West. The Mississippi, south of us, and the lakes, north of us, are, as they regard it, their only water outlets. And it would be by no means surprising, if the former, now open and free, after six years interruption by the rebellion, should become more used than ever before. By boats and *barges*, the immense surplus products of the West would find a market through that channel with equal certainty and with less expense than by railroad.

There are some facts which make this not only plain, but of weighty consideration on this subject. Grain is raised with as little expense in Illinois as in California, and on leaving the hands of the producer sells as cheap. Yet grain is brought from California, by way of Cape Horn, to markets on the Atlantic coast and sold at better profit than grain brought by rail from Illinois. It is maintained that freights from some points can now be carried with advantage to Eastern markets by way of the Mississippi river, and on the regulation of affairs disordered by the war, that will be, no doubt, a course followed by a large amount of trade.

The principal source of the trade of the rising current of thought on this subject, in this locality, will suggest itself to every thinking mind. It is to secure as much improvement as possible in our *water* communications, and as much increase as possible to our railroad connections therewith. We have been led, by the influence of the times, to underrate the value of our water communications. It will, we have no doubt, be an occasion of astonishment, to those who look back to these times, from twenty years hence, that their fathers were so indifferent to the immense value of having perhaps ten thousand miles of navigable waters open to them from the very threshold of this city, and all this extent lying bordered on both sides with fertile lands, busy cities and towns, and intelligent, enterprising populations. This transient oblivion of the value of our rivers has been induced partly by the popular prestige of railroads, and partly by the difficulty of half a dozen shallow places in the Ohio. To remove the latter is a fitting work for Pittsburgh capital and enterprise, if it cannot be obtained from Government. And the reward would speedily be seen in the immense business done on the rivers and wharves, far exceeding that of former days. And then, with additional outlets East, Pittsburgh would be second to no city on the western slope for the extent and variety of its business.

The policy of those who indulge in menaces of war, in order to promote their party ends, it is not easy to understand. Mr. BROOKS's Connecticut speech, and the outgivings of a rabid Democratic paper in Washington, and the proposition of a man in the Kentucky Legislature to raise ten regiments, to be subject to the call of the President, are all to be classed under the head of silly things. They can hardly be expected to intimidate anybody. Fighting, for lack of argument and right, never pays, and to talk about it in the way of menace, is not a str ong indication of good citizenship or of good sense. Mr. BROOKS, for his part, had no relish for fighting, when he had a chance, and in a worthy cause, and it is not worth his while to talk sulphur and saltpeter talk now, when everybody is disposed to peace, and good order.

PENDING the Senatorial canvass Colonel MCCLURE, the editor of the Chambersburg *Repository*, wrote from Harrisburg a letter over his own signature, in which he made the distinct charge of bribery and corruption, leaving the impression on the mind of the reader that he was prepared to prove it. The would very naturally suppose that Colonel MCCLURE would have been the first witness summoned by the so-called Investigating Committee; but although more than three weeks have elapsed, he has received no intimation that his presence in Harrisburg is desired. Some of the Committee, it is said, have talked loudly about summoning the editor of the *Repository*—but why have they not done it? Is it because the Committee are fearful that in some way the truth will come out?

THE recent order of the Pope, removing the American Chapel outside of Rome, has very properly attracted attention in Congress. The President, under the resolution of Mr. DODGE, has been directed to communicate what information he has or can obtain from the American Embassy in Rome, on the subject. The Protestant Scotch worship has also been expelled, and it is suggested that a united protest from Mr. SEWARD and Lord STANLEY would be in order. In the United States the Roman Catholics are on an equal footing with and in some respects enjoy special privileges over the Protestants.

THE SUFFERERS OF CRETE.

It is no small credit to the fame of our country, that the eyes of the wronged and the wretched, in all parts of the civilized world, turn in this direction for sympathy, and that their cries are raised to us for help. Nor is it merely where our political sympathies lead, that the charities of the people of this country have freely flowed, but to peoples who have not even had the feeblest aspirations for civil liberty.

At present, a strong appeal to humane feeling is made in behalf of the sufferers from the late insurrection in the Island of Crete. Oppressed by the Turkish Government beyond endurance, the Candian people rose to resist the oppressors, but their numbers, resources and martial advantages were insufficient to achieve success, although they gained some splendid victories over the Turkish forces. But the sufferings of the helpless portion of their people, treated with the utmost cruelty, are extreme. They are impoverished, driven from their homes, exposed to all the privations of a sudden and terrible flight, and in thousands, the women and children and aged people are suffering the pinchings of want, in addition to the other horrors of war.

On the ground of humanity, as well as of some degree of political sympathy, an appeal is made to the American people in their behalf.

IN the Senate of Wisconsin a bill has been reported, requesting Senator DOOLITTLE to resign his seat in the United States Senate. His switching off, as it may be called, on the sliding laid by Mr. JOHNSON, is the occasion of a dissatisfaction in the State with its representative at Washington. The request seems to be consistent with the doctrine of representation. How can a man represent a constituency, when his every act is liable, through his aberration, to be at variance with their interest, their opinion and their will? There ought to be a close sympathy and ingenuous confidence mutually between the constituency and the representative.

THE doctrine that the sovereign will of the people is supreme, and binding on Courts and Congress alike, is rapidly becoming the accepted doctrine, as the only one consistent with the Republican idea in governments. The decision of a hundred battle fields, sealed with the blood of half a million men laying down their lives that the Republic might live, and ratified by the loyal people at the ballot-box, is higher than any decision any court of ten judges ever rendered, and will stand as the supreme law of the land.

THE appointment of a Southern Relief Committee, composed of some of the most worthy and influential citizens of New York city, is a suggestive fact, and one highly creditable to the Metropolis. Large districts of the South are suffering from extreme destitution, and the Christian spirit in this movement, it would seem, must exert a favorable influence on the Southern mind. There is a high promise that deeds of this character will not be with out their good results.

IT is reported that THADDEUS STEVENS intends that when the credentials of SIMON CAMERON are presented in the United States, a committee shall be raised to inquire into the manner in which the election of the latter was procured. If in reality no ground exists for the inquiry, Mr. CAMERON will, of course, cordially second Mr. STEVENS's motion.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The completion of the Iowa Division of the Northwestern Railroad to Council Bluffs gives Chicago direct connection with the Missouri River and the Pacific Railroad. It is proposed to next complete what is known as the Cameron branch on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Road, connecting Kansas City with the Missouri and the Southern branch of the Pacific Road. The surveys for the proposed new Hudson River, or West Side Railroad, running from Albany to Hoboken, are nearly completed, and arrangements are being made to commence the work as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

England has no Minister Resident at the Court of Rome, but for many years diplomatic intercourse has been steadily kept up between the two Governments by special missions.

The Honolulu *Advertiser* says: There is no use denying that we are practically a colony of America, and our trade is and will remain almost wholly with her as the mother country, if rightly directed and fostered by treaty stipulations.

THOMAS D. HALL has invented a railroad switch, the object of which is to prevent railroad men. By a very simple arrangement an electric current rings a bell continuously when over the switch is moved from connection with the main line, thus sounding a warning, not only to the watchman, but to all within hearing.

The following is from the Zanesville *Times*: Among the marriages occurring in this city last week was one of a highly respectable young woman to an individual who was a Southerner, and at the beginning of the war a slave, notwithstanding the fact of his having, to all appearance, forgone all his wrongs and his previous history no doubt, might be traced in this man's birth and parentage; the episode we have given proving but one of the thousand romances of the war.

The Newbern, N. C., *Commercial* says that within a radius of thirty miles of that city, during the last twelve months, there have been perpetrated not fewer than one hundred cases of rape, murder, arson and burglary, to say nothing of the hundreds of cases of minor offenses against the law. These offenses are committed in nearly every instance, by negroes, and the *Commercial* urges the assembling of public meetings to take some action to repress the evil.

For a variety of reasons the emigration from Europe to New York has become very much less as compared with the first three weeks of January, 1866. Then the number of passengers arrived was 6,669. In the corresponding three weeks of this year the number which has arrived is 4,906, being a decrease this year of 1,763 already.

A few days since, a farmer near Newark, New Jersey, was waited upon by a respectable looking gentleman, who said he had come to pay for a basket of apples which he had taken from the orchard when a boy, sixteen years previous ly. He insisted upon paying not only the original value, but the interest. At the latest accounts he was still at large.

PERSONAL.

—The two ladies who were bold enough to venture upon the ice bridge across the East river on Wednesday, were Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher and Mrs. Moses Beach. Just before they reached the shore the ice began to break up, and for a time they were in imminent danger.

—A story is told of Stewart, the dry goods millionaire, that knowing a certain article was rising, he sent to a Boston merchant to buy up everything of the kind at the hub. He accordingly looked the putting up of his own prices, however to correspond to the rise, the Bostonian found it out, and bought half of Stewart's own stock at two cents a yard less than market rates, before the merchant prince found it out. Stewart had to buy his own goods at an advance.

—A letter dated Montevideo, November 13th says: "Happening, while in search of a party to step into a low bar-room, frequented by captains, mates and river men, who should I see laid out on a bench, and too drunk to move, but that illustrious son of quality, Captain Moffit, the former commander of the pirate Florida."

—A St. Louis dispatch says A. H. Lee, winner of Crosby Opera House, authorizes his brother-in-law to dispose of the same to the best advantage, as he has no use for it. The Boston *Journal* says that Neal Bryant, brother of Dan. Bryant is the winner of the prize. The Chicago papers want to know which it is.

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THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, January 24, 1867.

SENATE.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill amendatory of the act to prevent smuggling, which passed.

The bill to grant aid to the San Francisco Central Pacific Railroad was considered and postponed till to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, the Secretary of War was instructed to report the names of officers appointed under the Regular Army bill last summer, who have failed to join their regiments.

The credentials of Senator FRELINGHUYSEN were presented.

Mr. WADE, from the Committee on Territories, reported a bill amendatory of the act providing a territorial government for Montana, defining the powers of probate courts, legalizing public acts of the second and third sessions of legislative assembly, until approved or disapproved by the next session; fixing salaries of territorial officers, and repealing the act placing Dakotah and Montana in one surveying District.

Mr. VAN WINKLE, from the Committee on Finance, reported a joint resolution suspending the collection of direct taxes in West Virginia, with his amendments, and another amendment authorizing the Secretary of War to charge the State with the amount proportionate to the value of real estate, which her counties have been compelled to pay for the support of the army.

Mr. FESSENDEN, from the Finance Committee, reported a supplementary legislative appropriation bill with a few amendments, viz: For temporary clerks in Treasury Department, $50,000; for repairs of the cable, $100,000; for telegraphic communication between the Atlantic and Pacific, $14,000. The increased compensation to the Treasurer was struck out.

Mr. WADE introduced a bill to provide for the additional duty by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court among Circuits, and the appointment of a marshal, at a salary of $5,000.

The tariff bill came up. Mr. GRIMES delivered a speech in opposition thereto, claiming that two or three of the most important interests of the country are dissatisfied with their enormous profits of the last six years, and determined to have fewer profits and more money in their pockets. To this end they have purchased some, and coerced other manufacturing interests to unite in a demand for protection to American labor, but what must be the result, with more truth, call robbery of American labor and agriculture.

Mr. GRIMES then proceeded to examine and consider the details of the bill, which he called a bill to decrease the revenue and destroy the income of the country, and injure the agriculturists it pretended to protect.

Mr. DIXON's amendment, to put books, maps and charts, imported for the use of public and college libraries, literary societies, etc., upon the free list, was adopted.

Several other amendments were offered, including one by Mr. WADE, to increase the duty on linseed or flaxseed, which were all rejected.

An amendmendment offered by Mr. FRELINGHUSEN, to amend the duty on linseed or flaxseed oil to "twenty cents per bushel, and linseed oil to thirty cents per gallon," was likewise adopted.

The disagreement of the House on the Senate amendment to the bill relative to the appointment of pension agents was announced. The Senate insisted, and agreed to a conference committee. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. KASSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the Indian Appropriation bill, which was considered and passed.

Mr. SCOFIELD introduced a bill for the holding of a Circuit Court in Erie, Pa. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. PERHAM, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reported a bill to pension the widow of Brevet Major General Hall, $12. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HOWELL, from the Committee on Agriculture, reported a joint resolution to extend the provisions of the Agricultural College Land act to Tennessee.

Mr. LE BLOND didnot see why there should not be a like act for Tennessee, and why all the States lately in rebellion should not be included in the provisions of the bill.

Mr. MAYNARD protested against his name being put in comparison with the States not represented in Congress. It stood upon an entirely different footing.

Mr. STOKES took the floor in defense of Tennessee. The Government of Tennessee was not in the hands of its loyal people, and by the Governor in him, it would be kept there. (Applause.)

Mr. LE BLOND inquired on which side the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. STOKES) was in which he had declared that he was for the immediate admission of the present Congress.

Mr. STOKES said that letter was the only word any man could put his finger on as evidence that he had ever been disloyal. He was strong in the hearts of loyal people, and by the God who made him, it would be kept there. (Applause.)

Mr. LE BLOND inquired on which side the gentleman was in the letter in which he had declared that he was for the immediate admission of the present Congress.

Mr. STOKES said that letter was the only word any man could put his finger on as evidence that he had ever been disloyal. He said the letter was written on the 10th of May, and on the 12th of May he took the stump in favor of Lincoln and the Government, and he brought out of the Duncan letter, as Mr. LE BLOND ought to have come out of his copperhead connections. (Applause.)

After further debate, Mr. DONNELLY moved an amendment, that the Senate and House should be held by the State of Tennessee, subject to condition that no person should be employed as a professor in any college or public school or held military or civil office under the Confederate government or under the rebel State government of Tennessee. Adopted.

The previous question was seconded.

Mr. COVODE, in making a remark of Mr. Kelley denouncing Johnson as an usurper, said that if he were represented by parliamentary decorum, he would reply to him in the same language of Marmion, "Lord Angus, thou hast lied."

Mr. KELLEY said he had been informed by those sitting around him that the gentleman from Tennessee had made the same offensive allusion to him. That gentleman was not the usurpation was being plotted, the confidential and loyal friends of the usurper, the keepers of the secrets of the usurpation. If conscience had not been extinguished in him, it would prompt the gentleman to change his policy; take sides with the usurper.

Mr. COVODE replied: I was the confidential friend of the President of the United States, and I glory in the fact; but not one dollar of his salary has been handed by me to the usurper. A gentleman from Pennsylvania says I was the paid agent of Mr. Johnson, he lies again. (Sensation.)

The SPEAKER called him to order.

Mr. KELLEY. I withdraw that I was not Andrew Johnson's own money that the member from Tennessee handed; it was our money—the money of the people of the United States. The member from Tennessee was a member of Mr. Lincoln's household, and was paid to his *secret* service, but I will not bandy words with him.

Mr. JENCKES made a point of order that this discussion was not in order, having no reference to the bill.

The SPEAKER sustained the point of order, and the personal altercation was stopped.

The previous question was seconded, without division, with Mr. DONNELLY'S amendment, by a vote of 116 to 35.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of Mr. STEVENS'S reconstruction bill.

Mr. RAYMOND addressed the House against the bill.

Mr. SCHELLABARGER made a speech in support of it.

Mr. STEVENS indicated his intention to call the previous question on the bill to-morrow in view of the conflicting opinions of the Republican side, move to lay it on the table.

The House went into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. MORRILL made a speech on financial questions. Resumption of specie payments by the Government cannot be obtained until there is some curtailment of the circulation of legal tender notes, say $200 000 000, or perhaps until by stiffening the tariff we check the outgoing of gold that is now going on. If consumption does occur, it will at once unlock a large amount of specie hitherto withdrawn from circulation, and for a time at least a considerable less amount of currency will be required. No disastrous effects need follow if the proper Secretary of the Treasury only exercise common prudence. All expect the country to face resumption at some period or other. It is not a question as to what time will be best and profitable for the most ingenious financier in his own part, I am persuaded if we start now we shall not reach the goal of resumption any earlier than the most devoted friends of an exclusively paper money system would wish. Let us rather strive to give to labor its largest consistent remuneration, and equally strive to sustain the Government by the smallest amount of taxation. It is infinitely more important that we should fix our tax and revenue system on a stable basis to stand for a series of years; but if our political condition did not forbid this, the unfunded national debt, and above all, the immense volume of national bank and legal tender currency would not permit it. The United States must be a great borrowing nation for the next twenty years, nothing. The first sign of exhaustion will be the signal for all our foes to endeavor to crush us. Hence any measure that has a tendency to finding cruel enemies at home that we have been furnished with a superabundance of evidence that those who grow rich on our calamities are by no means our friends.

Earnestly seeking peace, and believing an honorable peace possible, we may be flirted into war. We may be assailed, and thus called on to fight. Whatever the ultimate result of our financial condition is only sound, we can easily settle strain; but until we have our debts funded, and our currency placed on a specie basis, we will not leap into the market and crush all down in the general crash. Inevitably by the addition of another thousand millions of debt is to be avoided. A war to be supported by an inflated currency would be ruinous. Therefore Congress to admit members on its own condition. "Hands off" generally, and no interference of one branch of the Government with another, is the distinctive feature of this scheme. It is hardly probable that any measure will be put through this session. Already, under the pressure of business, a disposition is manifesting itself in Congress to put over certain questions till the next session, which will begin on the fourth of March next.

I am no defender of the politics of the Secretary of the Treasury. They have been, and are, distasteful to me. The political sins of the Secretary are patent, but we know not what has been resisted. Should we drive him from the position, is it likely any successor would have more of the confidence of the country? His recommendations, so far as I am concerned, shall not be condemned because made by him, only scrutinized. I do not think it will be very wise for Congress to go wrong on financial questions, because the Secretary happens to be right, though wrong politically. For myself, I shall not make the mistake of opposing him where my conscience assures me he is sound and true. Although I think he has named a day for resumption of specie payments somewhat earlier than it will be possible to achieve that, the unalterable purpose to resume at an early day is sound in principle, policy and morals, and if Congress shall withhold the purpose, it will have doomed the country to long years of suffering.

On the 11th of May, 1865, the premium on gold had fallen to 128½ per cent., having fallen from 200 per cent. in March, and from a much higher point than that in January, without producing a perceptible panic in financial circles, and far less a panic. There were 2,733 failures in 1866 in the United States, amounting to $91,750,-473; but in 1865 there were only 530, amounting to $17,625,000, or about one-fourth the average number and amount. Mortgages were made that had been liquidated. The old system of mercantile credits by common consent had been banished. The South, in losing all it had, lost its credit, and trust in that direction was impossible, and all felt that to pay as you go was sound policy. The scriptural injunction, "owe no man anything," had been obeyed, and then was the golden moment not only for political reconstruction, but return to specie payments. Then the capital of the country was idle, and might have been largely enlisted into service for the country. The contingent contingency was over, and it waited only to be honorably discharged. Useful once, it was now only an encumbrance.

The Western States, prior to the war, were largely involved in debt, but they not only paid off an indebtedness of not less than two hundred million dollars, but they became large holders of United States securities, with means of becoming larger holders. Up to this time neither the West nor any other part of the country have our people asked or received the ancient measure of credits. Notwithstanding the draft of war, the great masses of the people are free from debt. Thanks, at least, to the Secretary of the Treasury for having borne us in the matter of early resumption of specie payments. This, if no more, has prevented the country from indefinite expansion of credits, from plunging headlong into debt, and never, in my opinion, shall we have a more auspicious moment to initiate measures for the vigorous retirement of the excess of our paper currency.

I wish I could believe the Treasury estimate of receipts from customs for the years 1867 and 1868 were not too large; but I cannot, and instead of $176 000 000, if we get less by $20 000 000, it ought to content and be satisfactory to the country.

The capacity of the South to consume and pay for immense importations has been vastly overrated, and the trade along previously must not exceed the entire aggregate of the Southern trade recently restored. The present estimate of legal tender notes, say $200 000 000, or perhaps unduly stiffening the tariff we check the outgoing of gold that is now going on, and it ought to content and be satisfactory to the country.

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THE THEATRE.—The Pittsburgh Dramatic Association will give a performance this evening at the Theatre, for the benefit of the Pittsburgh Orphan Asylum. The play is the "Lady of Lyons," and the cast is a strong one. The Association has been very successful in its efforts to please, and we hope the house will be filled to-night.

HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 24, 1867.

SENATE.

Report of Committee.

To incorporate the Brady's Bend Bridge Company.

Bills in Place.

Mr. Ridgeway—To abolish the office of Grain Measurer in Philadelphia.

Mr. Landon—A resolution instructing the Committee on Education to report a bill to regulate the education of the orphan children of soldiers, and to provide officers to carry out the provisions of the same.

Mr. White presented a bill for the final adjournment of the Legislature on March 20th. Referred to Finance Committee.

The Senate then considered the joint resolution of instruction against the confirmation of Edgar Cowan. The question was postponed.

HOUSE.

Bills Passed.

Incorporating the Safety Deposit Company.

Supplement to People's Savings Bank.

Public Bills Passed.

Joint resolutions instructing Senators and requesting Members concerning the passage of a law to reduce the tax on petroleum.

To increase the pay of Secretary of the Commonwealth.

For a joint committee of both Houses, in conjunction with the Governor and Adjutant General, to prepare a bill to revise the militia laws of the State.

Public Institutions of Allegheny County

Senator Bigham, in the Senate, and Speaker Gless, of the House, extended an invitation to the Legislature from the managers of the public institutions of Allegheny county to visit them on Friday, February 8th.

The Allegheny License Law.

The Allegheny delegation met this morning. Senator Bigham, at the request of the delegation, submitted a report relative to the new liquor bill, presented in the House by Mr. Peters, which was ordered to be published in the several papers in Pittsburgh.

Both Houses passed joint resolutions to adjourn until Tuesday next, at seven o'clock. There will be a large attendance of both branches of the Legislature in response to invitations extended them to visit Allegheny county.

WASHINGTON, January 25, 1867.

SENATE.

Mr. DOOLITTLE presented the report of the Joint Special Committee to inquire into the condition of Indian tribes and the management of affairs, appointed March 3d, 1865. Ordered printed.

Mr. HENDERSON introduced a bill for the relief of the Noris Missouri Railroad Company and allowing them in connection with the railroad of Iron. Referred.

Mr. WADE called up the bill authorizing the construction of a lateral branch of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad within the District of Columbia. Passed.

The House resolution exempting alcohol, burning fluid and camphene from tax when the distilled spirits from which they are manufactured have paid the tax, was passed.

Mr